Washington Ave.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
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Church turns 100

T s JUN 7 1984

Churches (Meth. Ep.) Presbyterian

Washington Ave. Presbyterian marks anniversary this weekend

Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church is celebrating its 100th birthday with a dinner, a concert and a Pentecost Sunday communion service. The community is welcome to celebrate with the congregation.

The events are scheduled Saturday and Sunday . A dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Saturday in the United Methodist Temple, 5001 Dixie Bee Road. A program, "Echoes of the Past," will be emceed by Carl N. Miller Jr.

Special guests for the evening will be five former ministers to the Washington Avenue congregation: John Stone, Louis Alderton, Dennis Shoemaker, William Moody and Neil Cowling.

Sunday morning services will begin at 10 a.m. In preparation for the celebration new cushions have been installed in the pew seats. The 100th anniversary offering will be dedicated to improving the church's sound system in the sanctuary.

At noon Sunday a light lunch will be served with birthday cake the featured dessert.

Nancy Sickmann and William Cain will appear in a public organ concert beginning at 1:30 p.m. Sunday in the church sanctuary.

Music always has been a special part of the Washington Avenue program. A string orchestra originating at the church in the early years of this century was a forerunner of the Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra organized in 1926.

The Rev. David Monfort, the first permanent minister to settle in Terre Haute, founded a lasting Presbyterian church here in 1828, the primary ancestor of the present Washington Avenue church.

Washington Avenue Presbyterian, originally a mission church of Central Presbyterian, was established as a separate church in February 1884. Originally known as Moffatt Street Presbyterian Church, the simple building which housed the first congregation was soon outgrown and the cornerstone for a new building on Washington Avenue was laid Oct. 1, 1892.

Among those attending the anniversary celebration is expected to be Vivian Bath, the only member known to be a direct descendant of the charter group.

Among the other distinctive contributions Washington Avenue Presbyterian has made to local history is the charter of the oldest Boy Scout troop to be organized in Vigo County in 1914.

Five current members of the church are 50-year members — Margaret Hamlin, Dorothy Fisher, Jane Whitmer, Dr. Robert Slinkard and Carl Miller Jr. Miller is part of a family which lists five generations as church members.

Bertha Pratt King, who married Max Ehrmann, whose "Desiderata" is world acclaimed, was a member of the church, and Burl Ives, folk music great, was a member of the choir while a student at Indiana State Normal.

Barbara Potts is serving as chairman of the Centennial Steering Committee.

The Rev. William B. LeMosy is current pastor.

Vigo County Public Library.

Tribune-Star/Jim Avelis

Rev. LeMosy in sanctuary: Washington Ave. Presbyterian celebrates 100th anniversary this weekend.

Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Church rich with history

T-S AUG 24 1985

Churches (W)

Community Affairs File

At the corner of Sixth Street and Washington Avenue stands a very old church. Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church's cornerstone was laid Oct. 1, 1892, and the structure was completed at the amazing cost for the time of $18,000.

"Some of the people were disappointed that the church had no spire, but most folks felt that windows and pews, coal and lights, Bibles, books and the pastor's salary were more important. They said, 'All a spire is good for is to point up, and we can do that in love and service,'" Dorothy Fisher wrote for a worship service on church heritage in 1976.

The church may lack a spire, but not inspiration. Nestled in the center of some of Terre Haute's most interesting architecture, the church has a congregation which numbers just under 100.

Recently the congregation evangelism committee decided to actively recruit members. "We just want people to drop by and visit with us," Bess Enright, church secretary, said. "If people want to join, that's fine. If they just want to visit and take part in services, that's OK too."

The church pipe organ, installed in 1908, towers over the sanctuary. "Music has always been very important at Washington Avenue, and we've been blessed through the years with people with talent and dedication to carry on this fine tradition," Fisher wrote.

In fact the church symphony orchestra organized in 1910 was the forerunner of the Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra under the direction of Harry Crawford numbered 30 to 35 members.

What is so intriguing about this strong and proud congregation is the extent of its community involvement. Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts use the church for weekly meetings. The office of Terre Haute Meals on Wheels is in the education wing. Alcoholic Anonymous and Al-Anon groups meet every Saturday night at 8 and Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) uses the facilities through the week. The church is also the polling place for voters part of Farrington's Grove area.

The essence of the congregation's spirit was best captured in the church's centennial book. "In his 'Desiderate,' Terre Haute author Max Ehrmann penned, "If you compare yourself to others, you may become vain or bitter for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your plans as well as your achievements.' Well, there are bigger, prettier, richer and more devout-no-doubt churches, but none that are more our responsibility than the church in which we worship."

Quoting Ehrmann seemed even more important when one recalls that he lived at 903 S. Sixth St., and just prior to his death in 1945 married Bertha Pratt King ... a member of the congregation. Ehrmann's widow was the founder of King Classical School, a private school which thrived for years under the direction of the Smith College graduate.

WASHINGTON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Churches WV Wash. Ave. Presby.

Church-Sponsored Mothers Center Aids Families In Crisis

S FEB 27 1980

Churches (T.H.)

Social Agencies (Vig

Washington Ave.

By GLADYS SELTZER
Star Staff Writer

Helping the individual tap her own inner resources to cope with a crisis is a cornerstone of the program of the Mothers Resource Center of Terre Haute, a community service project of the Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church which was initiated last November to help mothers in a time of crisis.

Mrs. Elizabeth Davis, director, said the program stems from a nursery school program supported several years ago by the church for children of low-income families. The program was operated by volunteers directed by a salaried individual reimbursed by the church. When this program was no longer feasible, the board of the church named Mrs. Davis to develop and direct a community resource program to function as a short-term crisis outreach center for mothers encountering difficult or stressful situations with emphasis on need, either emotional or financial.

The salary of the director-outreach worker is funded by the congregation, materials and other necessary items and services are supplied by the church and the base office is located in the church's education building, 619 Washington Ave.

A licensed practical nurse who in 1963 graduated from Vigo County's practical nursing program, the director pointed out she has seen the "traumatic effect of family crisis from her nursing experience and how such crisis could tear a family apart."

"I believe stress-related problems can cause deterioration of the physical well-being of the individual," she continued. "By supporting mothers in time of need or crisis, this helps us to come in at a time so that we can help the person help herself and at the same time coordinate a program to meet the needs."

Mrs. Davis has been associated with the Porter Memorial Hospital, Valparaiso, and the Harden Memorial Hospital, Elizabethtown, Ky., and has had clinical nursing experiences in pediatrics, geriatrics, nursery for the newborn, in surgery and ophthamology, she said.

The program and its objectives were approved Nov. 19 by the church board, and the program was accepted Nov. 22 by Terre Haute Regional Hospital's Social Service Director Mary Ann Fuelle. The first referral came from the hospital. Other referrals have come from two local law firms, a local physician, the local Legal Services Indiana office, a local church and private individuals.

Twelve cases have been referred to date and of these, eight are still active. The maximum caseload is 14.

After a referral is made, Mrs. Davis investigates the need, visits the home and tries to find practical solutions for the immediate problem. She spends an hour each week in the home of each client with the objective being to help the individual gradually become able to cope with this particular situation.

If the need is for help with food, shelter or clothing, Mrs. Davis will seek private donors for financial contributions or in-kind contributions. She has had help also from the Food Stamp Office, the township trustee offices in Honey Creek and Harrison townships and the local office of Indiana Legal Services, Terre Haute Housing Authority and Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi.

She said she will be glad to discuss the program with any community group wishing to be a resource to aid in a practical way in a crisis situation. All financial donations go for direct help to the clients and not into administrative expense, she added.

Mrs. Davis said anyone may call the church office at 232-1638 to request help, although the depth of the crisis and the number of young children involved determine the priority. She can make home calls within the city limits but services for residents in other parts of the county are handled at the office.

In addition to assisting with the basic needs, Mrs. Davis seeks to provide activities in the home and outside workshops offering opportunity for the mother to learn additional skills. She also makes available on a loan basis the toy lending library for preschoolers who are provided with educational toys, books and records.

Thus far, Mrs. Davis said she has received some calls which after their being investigated prove to be fraudulent and not as represented originally.

She and her husband James, a son and daughter, live at 29 Antler Drive. Another son resides in California.

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Churches (WH) Community Affairs File

Washington Avenue Presbyterian has proud history

By Frances E. Hughes

Sp DEC 9 1978

Although it is not one of the city's oldest churches, the Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church will observe its Centennial year in 1984.

The Central Presbyterian Church, one of the first churches in the city, was founded in 1828, just nine years after Indiana became a state.

In 1875, a group of Terre Hauteans, some of whom were members of the Methodist-Episcopal Church, felt a need for a church in the south part of the city. This group met in a small building which later became the site of the chapel of Terre Haute Regional Hospital.

In 1876, the young congregation was organized, purchased a lot and erected a wooden building on the northeast corner of Third and Moffatt streets (Moffatt Street was later named Washington Avenue). Shortly after this, the church was mortgaged and in 1881, members of the Central Presbyterian Church assumed the mortgage and organized a Presbyterian Mission church, naming it Greenwood Chapel.

This little mission church became a separate church at the direction of the Presbytery of Vincennes on February 5, 1884. The 65 charter members called their new church the Moffatt Street Presbyterian Church. Five elders were elected and the Rev. James Skinner was installed as pastor.

The congregation continued to grow. On October 1, 1892, the cornerstone was laid for the new building located at the southeast corner of Sixth Street and Washington Avenue. The new $18,000 church, the present one, was dedicated September 16, 1894, and the name was changed to the Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Sunday School classes were begun, a choir was formed and young ladies from Coates College came to the new church to worship as well as did many others from the south side community. Coates College was a private school for young women located between Fourth and Sixth streets just north of Hulman Street.

In 1905, the house adjacent to the church was purchased for the minister and his family, and in 1908, the pipe organ was installed at a cost of $3,000. Music was always important to this church's members. Neta Altekruse served as choir director for 40 years, and in 1910 the Washington Avenue Symphony Orchestra was organized as the forerunner of the Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra.

The original orchestra, numbering between 30 and 35 members, gave concerts at the church under the direction of Harry Crawford.

The Rev. F. LeRoy Brown, who served the church as minister for 25 years, always led the group in prayer and the singing was directed by the superintendent, Carl Miller, to the accompaniment of a six-to-eight-piece orchestra, at the opening exercises of the Sunday School in the sanctuary of the church. Miller served as Sunday School Superintendent for 25 years.

To get money for the church, members sponsored ice cream socials, rummage sales, public dinners, carnivals and cooked meals for election workers. A Sunday School class of Business and Professional Members, the C.I.C. (Class in the Corner), cooked and served a moose dinner to 600 civic leaders to get funds to purchase a grand piano for the church.

In 1914, Boy Scout Troop No. 7 was organized at Washington Avenue. This still-active group holds the oldest charter in Vigo County. The church also now sponsors a Girl Scout Troop and a Brownie Troop.

During World War I, 46 men of the church served in the armed forces, 21 of them overseas. During the Great Depression of the 1920s and 1930s, the church had a hard time financially and the Board of National Missions had to help. During World War II, again members of the church served their country.

In 1945, the mortgage was finally burned. Because of financial difficulties, the church had hired a retired pastor, the Rev. George C. Hitchcock, at less salary.

Until 1951, there were four women's groups of the church--Junior Guild, Senior Guild, C.I.C. and Missionary Society. Each had separate goals and programs. That year, they were all organized into one large association, with unified programs, budget and activities.

Mrs. Zoe English became the first woman elder of the church in 1955.

Photo by American Visuals

Under the pastorates of the Revs. Louis Alderton, Dennis Shoemaker and William J. Moody, in the 1950s and 1960s, when America was back to normal after World War II, the church grew in members and financially. In 1955, a new manse at 425 Washington Avenue was purchased and the old house was converted into offices and classrooms. On January 10, 1965, the Christian Education wing was built onto the east side of the church.

During the past decade, the old church house has been razed, the manse at 425 Washington Avenue has been sold, and the pipe organ renovated in 1971 at a cost of more than $16,000.

In 1974, the unicameral system of church government was adopted, using 15 elders and eliminating the former boards of deacons and trustees. The Rev. Neil Cowling, who was installed in 1971, served as the fifteenth pastor of the church. He left October 1 of this year to serve the Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Toledo, Ohio. The nominating committee is now meeting to decide on a new minister.

There are now approximately 250 members of the church. Some members are the fourth generation of their families to be active there. These include the Meyer-Strecker family, the Carl Miller family and the family of Mrs. Norman Fischer, who was before her marriage Miss Dorothy Bronnenkant.

Assistance was given by the church to Richard Torstrick, who left several years ago to enter Louisville Theological Seminary in preparation for the ministry. He finished his studies last May.

"Help the Hungry" is one of the programs of the congregation. Through Life Line program, the church underwrites this project.

There also was a nursery school for disadvantaged four-year-old children for several years as a home missions program. The program was discontinued as volunteers to man it could not be obtained. Under this program, the children were transported to and from the church, clothed, fed and taught.

The Meals On Wheels program office is at the Washington Avenue Church, and Alcoholics Anonymous holds meetings there twice a week.

The church also has a short-term emergency care program for families in crisis situations, which is free to those unable to pay.

Another program is the Short Stop Children's Center, which provides good, inexpensive care for children up to six years of age a few hours or a few days at a time. This center is open from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. five days a week. Short Stop is sponsored by the Community Co-ordinated Child Care (4-C), with financial backing provided by the Vigo County Bureau of Employment and Training.

Washington Avenue supports the wide work of the Presbyterian Church through the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly.

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food

Christmas gifts from your kitchen

By Jean Shutt

My most treasured gifts each year are those of the homemade variety. Just a little thought means a lot to those near and dear to you. Perhaps a jar or nicely-decorated container of something your family enjoys on a regular basis would be an extra special holiday treat to someone else. These ideas might jog some of your own. Be creative!

HOT CHOCOLATE MIX

(I like to package this in leftover Pringle potato chip cans. They can be covered with foil, Christmas wrap, or fabric. After it's empty, makes a pretty container for something else.)

Combine:
1 8 qt. box of powdered milk
1 lb. box instant chocolate mix
1 7 oz. jar instant powdered creamer
1 lb. box powdered sugar

Mix all ingred. together. Store in covered container. To serve, use 1/4 to 1/3 c. of the dry mix to 1 cup hot water. Stir well.

STRAWBERRY RHUBARB JAM

(Hopefully you have some of last summer's strawberries packed away in the freezer. If not, they're easy to find in the supermarket. This jam, or any variety, makes a lovely gift. Use babyfood jars or any small jars you might have on hand. Cover the lids with fabric or foil and tie with a pretty ribbon or yarn.)

3 c. strawberries, hulled, washed and cut (drain the frozen berries very well)
3 c. diced rhubarb
6 c. sugar

Mash the strawberries. Combine with the rhubarb and mix well. Add 4 c. of sugar. Bring to rolling boil and boil for 4 min. Then add the remaining sugar and boil another 4 min. Pour into hot sterilized jars and seal. Makes 2-1/2 pints.

HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE SYRUP

1 c. white sugar
1/4 c. cocoa
1 T. cornstarch
1 T. butter
1/2 tsp. vanilla
1/8 tsp. salt
1 c. water

Combine all ingred., except the butter and vanilla with the water. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Remove from heat when sauce is thickened and glossy. Blend in the butter and vanilla. Store in refrigerator in an air tight container. Stores well.

AUSTRIAN CHOCOLATE BALLS

2 squares unsweetened chocolate
1/3 c. butter
1 c. sugar
1 egg plus 1 egg yolk
1/2 tsp. almond extract
1-1/3 c. flour
1/2 c. finely chopped nuts (almonds)

In a med. saucepan, over low heat, melt the chocolate and butter. Remove from heat. Stir in the sugar, eggs, and almond extract. Mix well. Then gradually stir in the flour and the nuts until well mixed. Shape in 3/4" balls and place on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 for 8 to 12 min. Cool. NOTE: Do NOT overbake. They store well.

GLAZE:
1 ounce unsweetened chocolate
1 T. butter
1/4 tsp. almond extract
1 c. powdered sugar

Melt the chocolate and butter. Blend in remaining ingred. Mix well. Dip ball in glaze.

COCOA SUBSTITUTE FOR CHOCOLATE

With the high price of chocolate, you might want to file away this substitute for baking chocolate.)

3 T. cocoa
1 T. shortening or oil

Mix well and this equals 1 square (1 ounce) of baking chocolate.

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Washington Ave Presbyterian Church

Dr. G. C. Hitchcock Resigns Pastorate

9/0/3/47

Dr. George C. Hitchcock, pastor of the Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church since March 1, 1942, has tendered his resignation to the Presbytery to become effective on his sixty-fifth birthday, Oct. 31. Dr. Hitchcock will go on pension, but has announced that he is not retiring.

He will serve as professor of Bible at the Oakland City College and will be supply minister at the Oakland City Presbyterian Church, commuting from his home in Washington, Ind., where he will move Nov. 1. Dr. Hitchcock said, "I have enjoyed my stay in Terre Haute and can say with the Apostle Paul, 'I am a citizen of no mean city.'"

During his service at the local church the membership has been doubled. The manse has been papered inside and painted on the outside, a new furnace has been installed at the church, the art glass windows have all been re-leaded, the mortgage has been paid and burned and the entire church walls redecorated both inside and outside.

Washington Ave.

Pastor Accepts Call

Trib 2/20/42

DR. GEORGE C. HITCHCOCK.

Dr. George Clifton Hitchcock, for 12 years minister at Westminster Presbyterian church at Washington, Ind., will preach his first sermon as minister at Washington Avenue Presbyterian church here Sunday morning, March 1, it was announced yesterday.

Born at Anamosa, Iowa, Dr. Hitchcock spent his youth at Ridgeway, Mo., and graduated from Park Academy and College near Kansas City, Mo. He later was graduated at Auburn Theological Seminary at Auburn, N. Y., and later took post graduate work in philosophy under Professor Wilson at Syracuse University.

While a student at Auburn Seminary, Dr. Hitchcock served as assistant minister of the First Presbyterian church at Auburn under Dr. William H. Hubbard. He was recipient of the scholarship in sociology and the ethics of Jesus and performed clinical work at the Carr Memorial Presbyterian church at St. Louis, Mo., under Dr. S. J. Niccolls.

He is married and the father of three children, Rinard Curtiss Hitchcock, a teacher in the high schools at Richmond, Ind.; Mrs. George W. Poland of Washington and Miss Kathryn Sue Hitchcock, at home. The Hitchcocks plan to move to Terre Haute during the first week in March.

Special Collections

WASHINGTON AVE. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

12/21/47

Rev. Louis Alderton has arrived here from Crestline, O., to take charge of the pastorate of the Washington Avenue Presbyterian church at Sixth street and Washington avenue. For the past four and one-half years he has been pastor of the Crestline First Presbyterian church.

Rev. Alderton graduated from the College of Emporia, Kan., in the class of 1938. He also graduated from the McCormick Theological Seminary in the class of 1941. His wife, Mary Margaret, graduated from Stephen's College at Columbia, Mo., in 1937 and from the College of Emporia in 1939.

Rev. and Mrs. Alderton have three children: Raymond Kent, aged five and one-half years; Louis Scott, aged three years, and Victoria Ann, aged seven months.

Rev. Alderton served the Presbyterian church at Nauvoo, Ill., as their pastor for four years from 1937 to 1943, and was pastor of the church at Crestline, Ohio, from 1943 until he was elected to become pastor of the Washington Avenue Presbyterian church in Terre Haute, Ind.

The Vincennes Presbytery will welcome Rev. Alderton into his new field at their regular meeting on January 19, 1948, and he will be installed as the pastor of Washington Avenue sometime during the latter part of January.

Special Collections